

(Washington, DC) Today, the House of Representatives passed a resolution introduced by Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) recognizing the important role pollinators play in sustaining the ecosystem and supporting the goals and ideals of National Pollinator Week. This year marked the fourth anniversary of National Pollinator Week, which was celebrated June 21-27, 2010. The resolution passed unanimously. **(Please find attached a copy of the resolution.)**

Hastings made the following remarks on the House floor on June 29, 2010 regarding his resolution:

“Madam Speaker, today the House will consider H.Res. 1460, which honors National Pollinator Week. With the efforts of the Pollinator Partnership, a majority of states and a number of federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, have officially recognized June 21-27, 2010 as a time to reflect upon the importance of, and challenges facing, these species. My resolution acknowledges how vital these animals are to our ecosystem and agriculture and supports the goals and ideals of National Pollinator Week.

“Seventy-five percent of all flowering plant species rely on creatures like birds, bats, bees and butterflies for fertilization. It would be a misconception, however, to think that pollinators are only important to plants and provide little benefit to us. In fact, one out of every three bites of food that we eat, as well as \$20 billion of products in the United States alone, derive from pollinators. In light of those kinds of figures, the security of our food supply clearly hinges on the survival of these species. National Pollinator Week is a time to reflect upon these contributions and what we can do to help preserve these animals.

“On a similar note, Madam Speaker, to further emphasize the importance of this issue, I recently co-founded and now co-chair the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus along with Representative Tim Johnson. The Caucus is a bi-partisan source of information and discussion related to how natural, political and economic developments impact the security of pollinators and their habitats. Last week, a briefing on the future of pollinators and in recognition of National Pollinator Week was held in conjunction with the Caucus, which was a tremendous success. We are planning more events and briefings to keep Members and their staff informed on this important issue. I urge all of my colleagues to become members of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus.

“Madam Speaker, National Pollinator Week provided us an opportunity to recognize how important pollinators are to the sustainability of our environment and to our food supply. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my resolution. Thank you.”

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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 [Pollinator Resolution.pdf](#)